

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, UR, US

SUBJECT: COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

REF: MOSCOW 5663

1. BEFORE ADDRESSING THE POINTS ENUMERATED IN REFTEL, A GENERAL OBSERVATION SEEMS APPROPRIATE. NAS STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS IN THE INTERACADEMY EXCHANGE WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY BETTER SERVED IN THE USSR IF THE ADMINISTRATORS OF THE PROGRAM IN THE SOVIET ACADEMY WOULD TAKE GREATER INITIATIVES TO SATISFY THE PROFESSIONAL WISHES OF AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS. FOR EXAMPLE, IF A REQUESTED VISIT IN THE USSR CANNOT BE ARRANGED, NAS WOULD LIKE THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENT STAFF TO CONSULT WITH APPROPRIATE SPECIALISTS TO FIND A SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE. IN GENERAL, IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF USSR ACADEMY STAFF COULD TRY TO THINK IN TERMS OF WHAT THE AMERICAN GUEST SCIENTIST WOULD FIND USEFUL PROFESSIONALLY, LOGISTICALLY, AND OTHERWISE AND WORK TOWARD THAT RATHER THAN MERELY REACTING TO THE EXPRESSED WISHES OF THE AMERICAN EXCHANGEES.

2. RE PARA 1 (B), IT DOES SEEM THAT AMERICAN EXCHANGEES ARE NOT ALWAYS MET AT THE AIRPORT ON ARRIVAL IN THE USSR. NAS DOES INSTRUCT AMERICAN EXCHANGEES BY WAY OF PRINTED HANDOUT BEFORE DEPARTURE FROM THE US THAT IF THEY ARE NOT MET ON ARRIVAL THEY SHOULD PROCEED TO SOVIET ACADEMY

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HOTEL. IT IS STANDARD NAS PRACTICE TO CABLE OR TELEX

ARRIVAL PLANS OF AMERICAN EXCHANGEES TO KULAKOV SEVERAL DAYS OR MORE IN ADVANCE AND SAME INFORMATION IS CABLED TO EMBASSY.

3. RE REFTTEL PARA 3 (A), NAS AND AMERICAN EXCHANGEES APPRECIATE SOVIET ACADEMY PRACTICE OF CONFIRMING INSTITUTIONS TO BE VISITED PRIOR TO EXCHANGEES DEPARTURE FROM US; AMERICAN EXCHANGEES ARE NOT GENERALLY COMPLAINING THAT PROGRAMS ARE NOT PRESENTED TO THEM WHEN THEY ARRIVE IN USSR. WHAT AMERICANS DO REPORT IS THAT INSTITUTES THEY VISIT OFTEN HAVE LEARNED OF THE VISIT ONLY SHORTLY OR NOT AT ALL BEFORE IT OCCURS, AND THEY FEEL INADEQUATE ADVANCE NOTICE PRECLUDES OPTIMAL PREPARATION BY SOVIET HOST FOR BENEFIT OF THE US VISITOR.

4. CONCERNING PARA 3 (B), NAS EXCHANGEES WOULD BE BETTER SERVED BY REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS, WHERE THEY OCCUR, ON DURATION AND INTENSIVENESS OF A VISIT TO A GIVEN INSTITUTION AS WELL AS SOVIET ACADEMY EFFORTS TO OVERCOME WHAT APPEAR TO BE ARBITRARY EXCLUSIONS OF INSTITUTIONS TO WHICH VISITS ARE REQUESTED. LATTER SITUATION ESPECIALLY MIGHT BE AMELIORATED BY FAIRLY STRAIGHTFORWARD INDICATION TO NAS OF CAUSE OF EXCLUSION AND POSSIBLE WAY AROUND IF IT EXISTS.

5. ON PARA 3 (C), NAS NEEDS MORE INFORMATION ON "D" COUPONS AND HOW THEY WORK AND WHETHER THEY MIGHT USEFULLY BE INTRODUCED INTO ADMINISTRATION OF INTERACADEMY PROGRAM; AT PRESENT AMERICAN EXCHANGEES RECEIVE A LIVING ALLOWANCE HALF IN RUBLES FROM SOVIET ACADEMY AND HALF IN DOLLARS FROM NAS WHICH ENABLES THEM TO USE HARD CURRENCY SHOPS WHICH THEY FIND EXTREMELY CONVENIENT; DO "D" COUPONS OFFER MORE? NAS BELIEVES AMERICAN EXCHANGEES ARE REASONABLY HOUSED IN MOSCOW, LENINGRAD, AND NOVOSIBIRSK; NAS WOULD LIKE TO SEE IMPROVEMENT IN HOUSING OF FAMILIES IN OTHER LOCATIONS, ESPECIALLY THE PROVISION OF APARTMENTS AS OPPOSED TO HOTEL ROOMS WHERE SUCH PROBLEMS ARISE. FURTHER, NAS WOULD LIKE TO SEE LODGING MADE AVAILABLE AT NEWER SATELLITE CENTERS SUCH AS PUSHCHINO SO THAT EXCHANGEES ALONE OR WITH FAMILIES COULD BE PLACED THERE. REGARDING AUTOMOBILES, NAS WOULD APPRECIATE OBTAINING CURRENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO INTERACADEMY EXCHANGEES REGARDING THE IMPORTATION OF A PASSENGER AUTOMOBILE FOR PERIOD OF EXCHANGE SOJOURN. AMERICAN EXCHANGEES REPORT NOTHING ON SUBJECT OF DUTY-FREE IMPORTATION OF ITEMS FOR PERSONAL CONSUMPTION.

6. RE PARA 3 (D), NAS HAS NO STRONG FEELING ABOUT ISSUANCE OF SOVIET EXIT VISAS TO AMERICAN EXCHANGEES UPON THEIR ARRIVAL IN USSR AS THERE HAVE BEEN NO CRITICAL

SITUATIONS AMONG ITS EXCHANGEES TO NAS KNOWLEDGE; ISSUANCE ON ARRIVAL SEEMS GENERALLY DESIRABLE BUT WOULD NOT RANK HIGH AMONG NAS DESIDERATA. HOWEVER, FOR OTHER REASONS RELATED TO OUR DESIRE TO SEE FURTHER EASING OF SOVIET TRAVEL CONTROLS, WE SUGGEST EMBASSY PURSUE THIS POINT WITHOUT DOWNPLAYING ITS IMPORTANCE TO US.

7. INDEPENDENTLY, NAS WOULD APPRECIATE A REQUEST TO SOVIET ACADEMY TO INFORM NAS WHEN IT KNOWS OF UNCERTAINTIES REGARDING TRAVEL TO US OF SOVIET NOMINEES OR OF ANTICIPATED CHANGES IN PLANS FOR ARRIVAL IN US. OFTENTIMES SUCH UNCERTAINTIES MUST EXIST AND CHANGES IN ARRIVAL PLANS ONLY MATERIALIZE AT THE LAST MINUTE. REVISION OF ITINERARIES IN THE US, ESPECIALLY FOR SOVIET SHORT-TERM VISITORS, IS TIME CONSUMING AND COSTLY, AND THESE RESOURCES COULD BETTER BE SPENT ON VISITS WHICH DO TAKE PLACE. REDUCTION IN WASTE ON NAS PART WOULD RESULT FROM GREATER SENSITIVITY ON PART OF SOVIET ACADEMY TO NAS INFORMATION NEED AND COMMUNICATION TO SATISFY THE NEED. WITH TELEX IN USE NOW SUCH COMMUNICATION SHOULD BE EASY TECHNICALLY.

8. FOR EMBASSY'S INFORMATION ONLY, NAS PRESIDENT HANDLER IS CONSIDERING AN INVITATION TO SOVIET ACADEMY PRESIDENT ALEKSANDROV TO VISIT US IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1976 TO PERMIT ALEKSANDROV TO FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF WITH US GENERALLY AND AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY IN PARTICULAR AND ALSO TO PERMIT HIGH LEVEL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON VARIETY OF USEFUL TOPICS INCLUDING HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES ABOUT WHICH MANY NAS MEMBERS FEEL NAS SHOULD BE ACTIVE. SUCH VISIT WOULD PRESUMABLY FOLLOW FORMAT OF KELDYSH VISIT IN 1972, INCORPORATING VISITS OVER TEN DAYS OR SO TO WASHINGTON AND A NUMBER OF US RESEARCH CENTERS. FURTHER, PRESIDENT AND MRS. HANDLER MAY INVITE FORMER PRESIDENT KELDYSH TO VISIT THEM FOR A DAY OR TWO AT THEIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COTTAGE ON CAPE COD WHEN KELDYSH IS IN US IN JUNE FOR COSPAR MEETING IN PHILADELPHIA. NAS IS AWARE OF ALEKSANDROV'S POOR HEALTH, REPORTED IN MOSCOW 5701. END FYI.

9. DEPARTMENT AND NAS APPRECIATE VIEWS IN REFTEL AND CONCUR THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND TIMELY FOR AMBASSADOR TO CONVEY SUGGESTIONS TO ALEKSANDROV. KISSINGER

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